

## Message Text

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60

ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 H-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 IO-15 /084 R

DRAFTED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS:GM

APPROVED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS

EA:MR.STEARNS

EA/LC:MR.THOMSEN

DOD/ISA:DR.SHIELDS

H:MR.KRIZEK (INFO)

----- 116459

P R 012314Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CDR JCRC NKP THAI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LEAGUE OF FAMILIES VISIT

REF: A. STATE 191696

B. VIENTIANE 6673

C. VIENTIANE 6678

1. LEAGUE GROUP IS GOING FORWARD WITH PLANS FOR LARGE GROUP (50 IS CURRENT ESTIMATE) TO VISIT VIENTIANE IN SEARCH OF INFORMATION ON PW/MIA/DIC'S. ACCORDING TO LEAGUE OF FAMILIES EXEC. DIR. ALBRIGHT (A RECENTLY RETIRED USAF COLONEL, WHO VISITED LAOS, NKP, ETC. SHORTLY BEFORE HIS RETIREMENT), GROUP PLANS TO DEPART OCT. 8, WITH TWO-  
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DAY LAYOVER IN BANGKOK, ARRIVING VIENTIANE O/A OCTOBER 12.

DEPARTURE FROM VIENTIANE TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR OCT. 18, WITH FURTHER STOPOVER PLANNED IN BANGKOK. GROUP HAS APPROACHED DOD TO REQUEST VISIT TO JCRC NKP AS WELL AS JCRC BRIEFINGS IN BANGKOK.

2. ALBRIGHT ASKS EMBASSY VIENTIANE RESERVE 25 DOUBLES (FIFTY BEDS) AT LANE XANG (OR ELSEWHERE IF NECESSARY) OCTOBER 11-18. PLEASE ADVISE. ALBRIGHT ALSO TRYING ARRANGE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR GROUP AT BOQ HOTEL CHOUPI IN BANGKOK. (LENGTH OF STAYS DETERMINED IN PART BY FACT THAT GROUP TRAVELING ON 14-DAY TICKETS TO REDUCE AIRFARES.)

3. DEPT. RECEIVING CALLS FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ASKING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR GROUP MEMBERS, E.G. OFFICE OF REP. OTTO PASSMAN (D., LA.) CALLED ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENT S. H. WALKER, WHOSE SON, AF CAPT. MICHAEL S. WALKER, 435663117 FR, IS MISSING IN F4 JET OVER LAOS SINCE 15 JULY 1969. MR. WALKER WOULD LIKE TO VISIT CAPT. WALKER'S CRASH SITE, REPORTED AS 15°28' E OF THIA, LAOS. DEPTOFF TOLD PASSMAN'S OFFICE IT WAS FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES IMPOSSIBLE TO VISIT CRASH SITE, AND SUGGESTED MR. WALKER CONSIDER DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH ICRC REP. BLATTER, TO SEE IF HE OR LAO RED CROSS HAD SUGGESTIONS. ALSO PROVIDED NAME OF FSO ROBERT MYER AS POINT OF CONTACT IN EMBASSY.

4. FYI, WE GAVE LEAGUE LEADERSHIP TEXT OF YOUR REF B AND QUOTED TO THEM FROM PHOUN'S DISCOURAGING REMARKS PER PARA FIVE REF C. GROUP THUS AWARE THEY RUN RISK OF REBUFFS AND THAT THEIR ACTIONS COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. THEY FEEL COMMITTED TO TRIP, HOWEVER, WHICH COL. ALBRIGHT DEFENDS ON GROUND THAT THE LAOS MIA FAMILIES WANT TO MAKE THIS FINAL "PILGRIMAGE" IN MEMORY OF THEIR LOVED ONES. HE CONFIDES GROUP UNDER NO ILLUSION ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF LEARNING OF ADDITIONAL AMERICAN PW (OTHER THAN KAY). ALBRIGHT SAYS GROUP WILL BE SERIOUS AND RESERVED, AND THAT THEY DO NOT PLAN "VIGIL" OR OTHER DEMONSTRATION NEAR LPF HEADQUARTERS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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